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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/941,850	08/30/2001	Itaru Nishizawa	520.40523X00	7555

24956 7590 03/18/2005

MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C.  
1800 DIAGONAL ROAD  
SUITE 370  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER

ADAMS, JONATHAN R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2134

DATE MAILED: 03/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/941,850

Applicant(s)

NISHIZAWA ET AL.

Examiner

Jonathan R Adams

Art Unit

2134

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 August 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 2, 5-10, and 12 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rubert et al, US Patent No. 6366915 (hereafter referred to as '915) in view of Ho, US Patent No. 6148342 (hereafter referred to as '342).

As to claim(s) 1, 10, 12:

3. '915 teaches a data relay server for accessing a database server via a communication network in accordance with a query for a database received from a computer client comprising:

- Producing a query message destined for database server including the retrieval condition / User specified query (Col 4, Line 55, '915)
- Transmitting the query message to communication network / communication link for query transmission (Fig 3, Element 392, '915)
- Receiving data matched with retrieval condition / IR system notifies interested users of the query results (Col 5, Lines 10-12, '915)

Art Unit: 2134

- Producing/transferring a response message for the client on the basis of the retrieval result / notification of results can be accomplished by sending the results to interested users (Col 5, Line 20-22, '915)

4. '915 does not teach to encrypt retrieval condition data included in the query received from the client computer. '342 teaches data relay server for accessing a database server via a communication network using secure encrypted communication including queries (Col 3, Lines 14-21, '342). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to use encrypted communication in the computer network of '915. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to use encrypted communication in the computer network of '915 because using encryption in a communication network improves security when dealing with sensitive materials.

5. As to claim(s) 2:

Query from client designates item to be replied as a retrieval result / the user can specify different parameters for a report form (Col 4, Lines 45-48, '915)

Query message with data item corresponding to encrypted retrieval condition / encrypted query corresponds with encrypted retrieved results. See rejection for claim 1.

6. As to claim(s) 5:

Art Unit: 2134

Researching the retrieval result, response message indicates result of re-search / If current results are available for the selected database query, the IR returns the result (Col 4, Lines 55-60, '915)

7. As to claim(s) 6, 7:

Converting at least 2 queries from different clients into a linked query / For example, each user may belong to one or more DB groups, with each such DB group having authorization to access a number of predefined database queries (Col 8, Lines 47-50, '915)

Researching the retrieval result, response message indicates result of re-search / If current results are available for the selected database query, the IR returns the result (Col 4, Lines 55-60, '915)

8. As to claim(s) 8,9

'915 as modified above teaches a data relay server for accessing a database server via encrypted communication on a communication network in accordance with a query for a database received from a computer client further comprising multiple instances of the IR routine and subroutines can be executing at the same time. (Col 12, Line 57-58, '915).

'915 as modified above does not specifically teach for the multiple instances to share copied information such as data relating to group queries. The examiner takes official notice as to the use of shared information for group queries. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to use of shared

Art Unit: 2134

information between instances of the IR routine for group queries. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to use of shared information between instances of the IR routine for group queries because if two users on the same group are concurrently using different instances of the IR routine to provide query responses to the group, query information should be shared between the instances.

9. Claims 3, 4, 11, and 13 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over '915 in view of '342 in further view of Ote et al., US Patent No. 6023506 (hereafter referred to as '506).

As to claim(s) 3, 4, 11, 13:

10. '915 as modified above teaches a data relay server for accessing a database server via encrypted communication on a communication network in accordance with a query for a database received from a computer client. '915 as modified above does not teach for the query message to include an encryption program. '506 teaches the use of a self-decrypting file transferred over a network used with attached encryption program (Col 7, Lines 33-50, '506). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to use the self-decryption file means of '506 with the secure database file transfer system of '915 as modified above. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to use the self-decryption file means of '506 with the secure database file transfer system of '915 as modified above because providing a

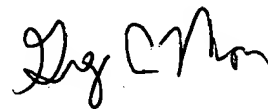
Art Unit: 2134

self-decrypting file reduces incompatibility issues when using several encryption algorithms.

***Conclusion***

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jonathan R Adams whose telephone number is (571)272-3832. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday – Friday from 10am to 6pm.

12. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory Morse, can be reached on (703) 308-4789. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571)272-3838. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.



GREGORY MORSE  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100